



# OLDEST RELICS OF MAN

## EVER FOUND ON EARTH

BY DR. W. M. FLINDERS PETRIE

THE FAMOUS EGYPTOLOGIST



BY DR. CHARLES R. GILLETT.

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REGARD Dr. Flinders Petrie's present work of excavation for relics of prehistoric man in Egypt as the most interesting and valuable archaeological researches ever undertaken. His latest discoveries give a great deal of material on which may be founded a new theory and history of civilization. These excavations have brought to light objects which go back of Biblical history, as well as antedate all profane history.

By this means man is traced back into geological ages, thousands of years previous to the ordinarily accepted date of the Biblical creation, 4004 B. C.

### PREHISTORIC MAN IN EGYPT.

By Dr. W. M. Flinders Petrie.

It has been said that the beginning of the fourth Egyptian dynasty—the age of the pyramids, about 4000 B. C.—is the furthest back that we can go. The puzzle has been that there were no traces of this high civilization. But now entirely new discoveries during the last three years at Koptos, Nagada, Abydos and Hierakonpolis, and various excavations have uncovered remains belonging to the ages before 4000 B. C., which has hitherto been the starting point of known history.

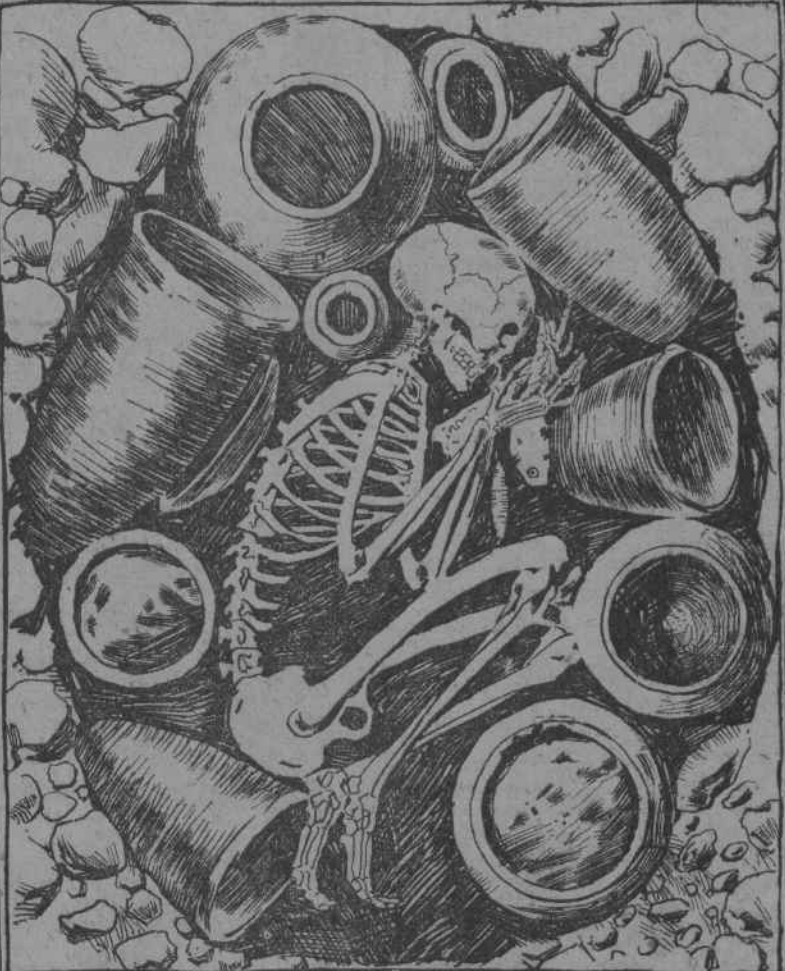
Excavations between Nagada and Ballos have shown that a foreign race intruded into Egypt, entirely driving out the early inhabitants and not even acquiring any of their arts. Two towns and over two thousand graves of this race have been

tion civilization to that of the rest of the world at the introduction of dynastic rule.

Whence came the invading race who founded the dynastic history? The ancient writers consider them as Ethiopians, coming from the south, and certainly in no other quarter, Lybian, Syrian or Anatolian, can we find an analogous people.

But Ethiopian was always a wide term, and may cover many different races. On looking to the Egyptian representations of the various races known to them we see but one resembling the Egyptian high class race. The people of Pun so admirably sculptured on the Temple of Hatshepsut are very closely like the high Egyptians. Further, the Egyptians called Pun the Land of the Gods.

The Egyptians, like many other peoples, constructed a myth-



Prehistoric Egyptian Grave, with Body Surrounded by Vessels Used in Funeral Rites.

Method of Burial of the Races Which Lived in Egypt Before the Pyramid Builders.

excavated, but not a single object of the usual Egyptian types was found.

Their flint working was above the Egyptians and more highly developed than in any other country. The perfect flaking, fine tooling and dressing down of surfaces is remarkable. Stone vases were finely made, all by hand and without lathes.

There were fine flint bracelets and ornaments of ivory and combs for women. The variously formed rude figures of slate are also from this race.

Their burials were contrary to Egyptian custom. Instead of putting the dead in pyramids they selected shallow valleys, dug square pits graves and buried the bodies doubled up with the head to the south, facing west. A great burning was made at the funeral, though the body was not burned, and the ashes were collected in jars and placed in the grave. These people were probably Libyans invading Egypt from the oases on the west.

An indication of the great antiquity of the earliest inhabitants of Egypt is the fact that flints of large size and unknown state have been found on top of the plateau 1,400 feet above the Nile, showing that that region, now absolutely barren and desert, was inhabited during the geological ages, before the river had cut out the present valley of the Nile. Smaller flints are also found in the gravel of a later paleolithic period, twenty or thirty feet above the present river, showing that man continued to inhabit the country in its various stages of geological formation.

The most distinct use of flints was for sickles. Particular forms were made to fit the curves of the sickle and were notched to cut the straw. Such flints can be recognized by the polish on the saw edge, while the rest is dull or even retains some of the cement by which it was fastened in the wooden sickle back.

The wonderful flint knives lately unearthed are perhaps the most important discovery of this kind ever made in Egypt.

They must mark the culminating point in an art stretching over a vast series of years.

Signs of the Libyan stock, with some negro mixture, which occupied Egypt in its earliest civilization, are shown by some of the objects I have found at Nagada—statuettes, games, slate palettes for grinding paint, beautifully ribbed flint knives of extreme delicacy, forked lances and arrows, carved spoons of ivory and bone, harpoons, bracelets and combs.

These were at first assigned to a new race, as we knew nothing more about them; but now they can be safely assigned to the pre-dynastic stock about 5000 B. C., and even earlier. In the graves of this aboriginal race were found bowls of black clay with patterns imprinted upon them. They are of great importance in considering the relation of this civilization to that of others in the Mediterranean.

In each of the countries where this has been found—Spain, Rosula, Egypt and Hisarlik—it was contemporary with the introduction of metals. Metals had just been introduced, and therefore in all cases this pottery was associated with the same state of civilization. The proximate date of this was the close of the Neolithic period and the introduction of metals—viz., 5000 B. C.—and that accords very well with the time necessary for arriving at the high culture attained by 1500 B. C. These discoveries are of great value in giving the relative state of Egypt-

ian period of gods to fill the blank of prehistoric times. In all the classical records Menes is regarded as the god who founded the dynasties. But the first three dynasties have heretofore been a blank so far as monuments are concerned. They were on as purely a literary basis as the kings of Rome or the primal kings of Ireland.

But a great discovery was made in clearing out the Temple of Koptos, in search of any prehistoric remains. I there found portions of three colossal statues of Min or Menes, all of very rude work, but showing a gradation of skill. Upon each statue are some surface sculpturings, and these statues are of an earlier style than any yet known.

There was a wide difference between the people of 5000 B. C. and those of 4000 B. C., but no difference between those of the latter period and modern times. This shows that a different race entered the country about that period. Next came the earliest dynastic remains of the presumed tomb of King Menes, the founder of the dynastic history of about the date of 4700 B. C., then the remains of other royal tombs found at Abydos belonging to the first three dynasties.

The skill of flint working had undoubtedly gone down and was fast dying out. The gradual decay of flint working between 4500 B. C. and 1500 B. C., as metals came into use, and copper was gradually hardened into bronze, had no parallel in the world.

I have a vase exhibiting the earliest representation of Egyptian mythology and other vases, tablets and slates showing animals and birds, such as the hawk, bull, lion and leopard, which manifested a well-acquired knowledge of these animals as well as of the ibex, gazelle and antelope. Large numbers of animals, such as the calf, monkey and dog, have been found modelled in green clay, together with a model of a lion in red pottery.

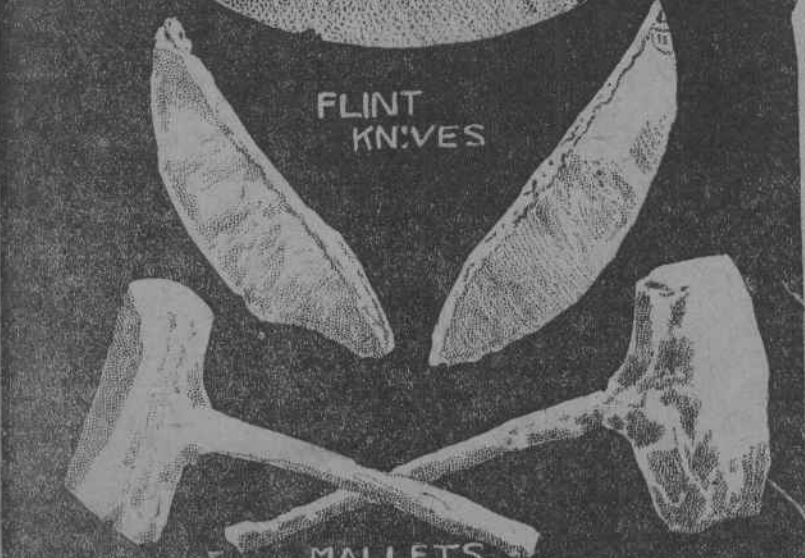
These finds are very important, as they show the skill of clay modelling of the earliest dynasty, the rise of the art of modelling and the Egyptian ideas and appreciations of the forms of animals and of the human body. These important monuments of the civil life of the early kings proved that glazing was a specialty of the original people, and that Egyptian art reached its high-water mark somewhere before B. C. 4000.

We have at last before us evidence of the close of the period previously considered prehistoric, showing the development of the art, writing, and civilization of Egypt, and the composition of a race which has since maintained its character during 6,000 years.

The puzzle has been how this civilization arose, and we have discovered evidences to solve this puzzle. Egypt was then an originator in the arts, and not a borrower, but ever since then most of the nations of the earth had been borrowers and not originators. Here we are studying the history of a country not borrowing but developing a vast and complex civilization on its own resources.

During the past few years we have been able to unveil the progress of civilization in Egypt backward for 1,500 years beyond what was previously known.

Many scientists regard 5000 B. C. as too conservative, and that these relics reach far back of that. I also believe that a much earlier date might be assigned to them, but I prefer to keep well within the mark in order to be perfectly safe.

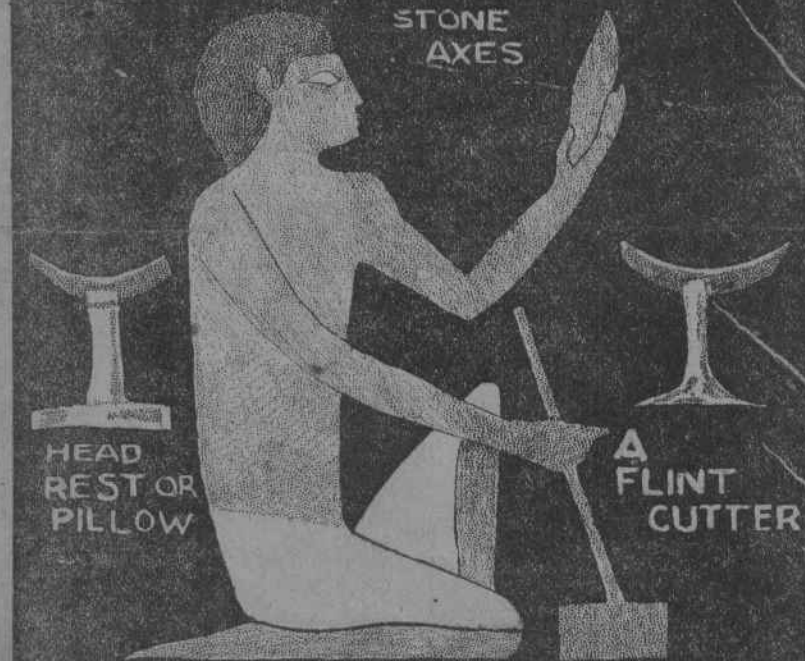


FLINT KNIVES

MALLETS



STONE AXES



HEAD REST OR PILLOW

A FLINT CUTTER



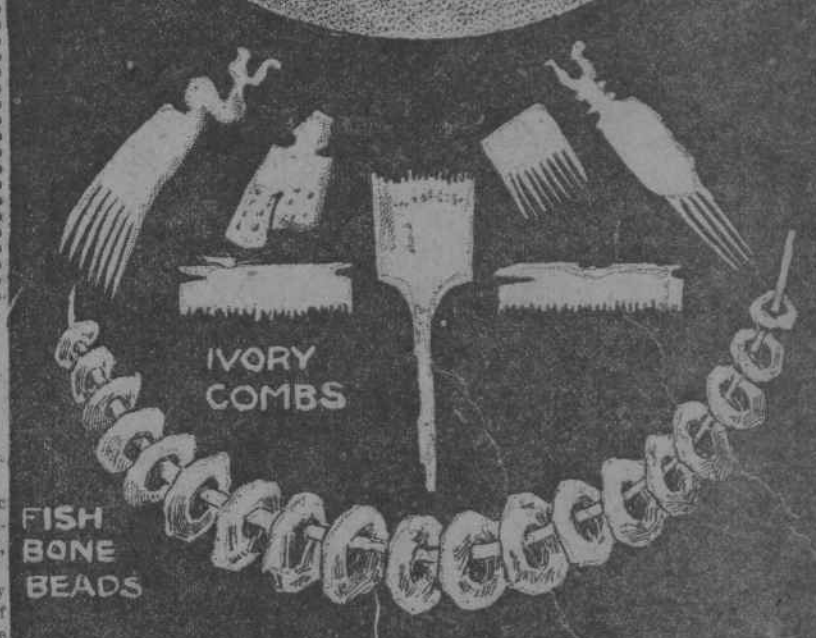
FORKED FLINT LANCE HEAD

CLAY IMAGES



FLINT SPEAR HEAD

DUCK SHAPED CLAY VASE FOUND AT KOPTOS



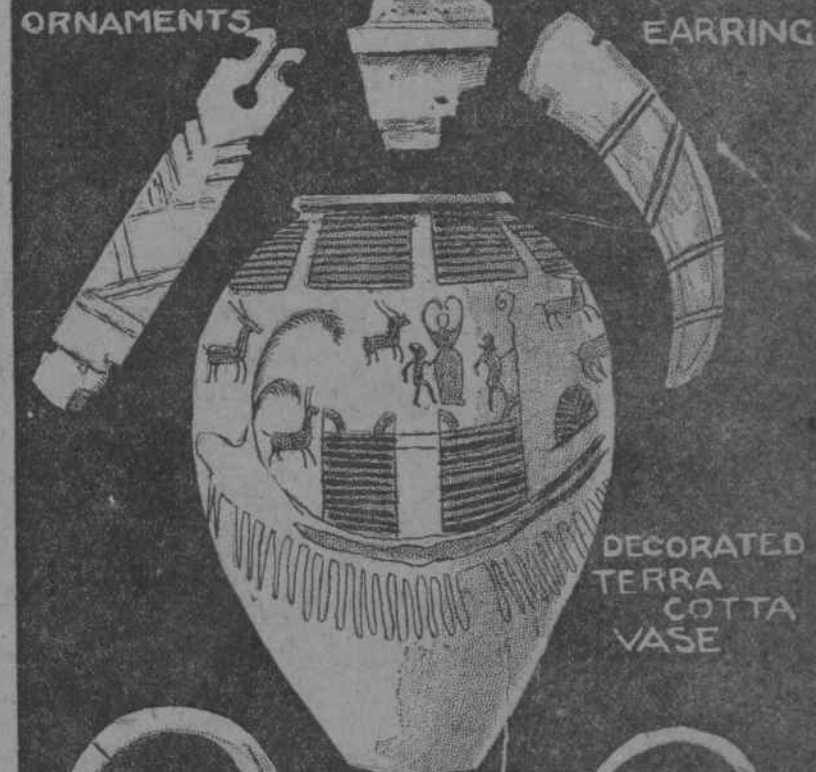
IVORY COMBS

FISH BONE BEADS



ORNAMENTS

EARRING



DECORATED TERRA COTTA VASE



FLINT

BRACELETS



IVORY COMBS



STONE IMAGE OF WOMAN AND HAND MILL FOR GRINDING CORN

WEAPONS, IMPLEMENTS AND OTHER RELICS OF MAN IN THE STONE AGE DUG UP BY DR. FLINDERS PETRIE IN EGYPT.

DOMESTIC ARTICLES, ORNAMENTS, VASES IMAGES AND VANITIES OF WOMEN MORE THAN 7,000 YEARS OLD.